

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

November 18, 2002
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, and Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Degginger opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes to discuss one item of property acquisition.

The Study Session resumed at 7:45 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding. Mrs. Marshall thanked everyone for their patience while Council was in Executive Session. She said Qwest has proposed amendments to the purchase agreement with the City. The City is evaluating the amendments and Council will not discuss the matter publicly tonight.

Mayor Marshall asked Board and Commission representatives to provide their reports in the Regular Session. Due to the shortage of time, Council decided to address the last item of the agenda before recessing to the Regular Session.

3. Discussion Item

- (a) Application of the City of Bellevue for rezone of 100 acres in the I-90 Business Park, known as the Boeing Rezone, from Light Industrial (LI) to Office Limited Business (OLB) and Office Limited Business – Open Space (OLB-OS).
File No. 02-138873-LQ.
(This is an opportunity for Councilmembers to raise questions relating to this rezone application. Council action is scheduled for December 2.)
(Note: Council action was subsequently rescheduled for December 9, and all parties were notified.)

Planning and Community Development Director Matt Terry offered to respond to Councilmembers' questions regarding the City's application for a rezone of 100 acres in the I-90 Business Park from Light Industrial (LI) to Office Limited Business (OLB) and Office Limited Business – Open Space (OLB-OS).

Deputy Mayor Degginger noted the Hearing Examiner's concerns about a piping system on the property and asked staff for additional details. Kate Berens, Legal Planner, said the scope of inquiry for a rezone application is typically to examine the impacts directly related to the rezone action. Changing the zoning on the site does not present any impacts in terms of the pipe. Ms. Berens said a study of the pipe structure was completed in the early 1980s. A lining was installed at that time to respond to concerns identified in the study and to conform with the City's requirements. The pipe is privately owned and maintained by the Boeing Company and consistently passes inspections regarding the City's maintenance standards. A recent study of the former landfill and monitoring wells concluded there are no problems with leachate in the groundwater.

Mayor Marshall announced that Council action on the rezone application has been rescheduled for December 9.

At 7:50 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the regular session and announced that the study session will resume following that meeting. At 10:45 p.m., the study session reconvened.

2. Study Session

(a) 2003-2004 Budget Review

(1) Boards and Commissions Reports/Recommendations

[Reports were presented under Agenda Item 4 of the Regular Session.]

(2) Continued Discussion of 2003-2009 Preliminary CIP Plan

Mayor Marshall suggested Council continue its review of the Preliminary Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan, Volume II of the Preliminary Budget binders, beginning with Chapter 11. Staff responded to brief questions of clarification before Council moved to Chapter 13, Public Safety. Mrs. Marshall noted Council's discussion of Economic Development proposals (Chapter 12) during the previous week's meeting.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Degginger, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Eisner said upgrades to fire stations include items such as roof replacement/repair needed at Fire Stations #1 and #3 and the Training Center.

Mr. Lee questioned the status of mobile data terminals for police officers. Police Chief Jim Montgomery said wireless terminals represent the third phase of scheduled Police and Fire technology improvements. Upgraded computer-aided dispatch and records management systems have recently been implemented as part of this initiative. Chief Montgomery said Councilmembers should expect to see a briefing paper in the next couple of weeks in anticipation of Council action on the wireless data terminals scheduled for December 9. Full implementation of the technology in Bellevue will take approximately 12 months and will provide the backbone for contract cities wishing to adopt the technology.

Moving to Chapter 14, Mayor Marshall noted Council's interest in reinstating funding for the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP).

Responding to Mr. Mosher, Planning Director Dan Stroh said the NEP matching program is a new component in which neighborhoods propose projects and assist in project implementation. In further response, Mr. Stroh said asphalt surfaces have been used in some neighborhoods as an alternative to concrete sidewalks. Responding to Dr. Davidson, Transportation Director Goran Sparrman said liability is an important issue in walkway design. Mr. Sparrman said the City follows a common sense approach to design facilities in a way that will minimize any potential for accidents or injury. Staff works to balance the competing needs of cost, appearance, function, and safety.

☛ Deputy Mayor Degginger moved to extend the meeting to midnight, and Mr. Mosher seconded the motion.

☛ The motion to extend the meeting carried by a vote of 7-0.

Responding to Mr. Mosher, Mr. Stroh said the Neighborhood Investment Strategy Program (Chapter 15) was designed to enable the City to focus existing and new resources on specific neighborhoods in need. West Lake Hills is the first area to be addressed by the NIS Program, and sidewalks represent one of the primary planned investments. In response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Stroh reviewed existing projects in the area identified in the 2001-2007 CIP Plan including SE 16th Street improvements, 140th Avenue corridor improvements, NEP projects (sidewalks, traffic calming), and the 148th Avenue corridor study.

Turning to Chapters 16 through 18, Mr. Noble noted that while the overall CIP Plan budget goes down in 2003/2004, the Utilities CIP Plan increases approximately 16 percent over the next few years. He questioned whether some Utilities expenditures could be delayed to the later years of the upcoming CIP Plan. Utilities Director Lloyd Warren said the CIP Plan reflects some projects that are being carried forward due to delays in the permitting process. Two newly funded items are the water system security project and the Meydenbauer Reservoir pump replacement project.

Mr. Lee referred to pages 16-9 through 16-12 and noted a number of ongoing items in the CIP Plan. He questioned whether some of these maintenance/rehabilitation items could be deferred or scheduled on a less frequent basis. Mr. Warren said the Utilities CIP Plan is based on policies adopted by Council regarding maintenance of the City's infrastructure. He explained that the Plan funds both capital investments and reserve accounts for long-term needs. If reserves are not funded on an ongoing basis, it could become very difficult to meet the future anticipated costs of replacing aging infrastructure.

Mr. Mosher commented that reserves have been established to take care of maintenance and rehabilitation needs. He feels it makes sense to proceed with planned expenditures, noting that the costs will be lower now than in the future.

(3) General Discussion

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran referenced the memo on page SS 2-2 of the Council packet regarding the parks operations and maintenance levy options. Although Proposition 1, an acquisition and development package to be funded by issuing bonds, was not approved by voters, the companion operations and maintenance levy passed with a 68-percent approval rate. Mr. Foran described the following options for Council action on the O&M levy:

1. Do not levy the Parks Operations and Maintenance Levy property taxes in December.
2. Use the O&M Levy funds to maintain existing parks. Since the City's Preliminary Operating Budget is balanced, this action will generate additional property tax revenues of approximately \$1.3 million over the next biennium. If Council believes that voter support of the levy represents a desire to maintain funding levels for existing parks, then Council may levy the O&M funds as part of the 2003-2004 budget process.
3. Direct O&M Levy funds into a Parks Endowment Fund to preserve this taxing capacity for maintaining and operating future park development projects or to maintain park funding in the future.

☞ Mr. Lee moved to not levy the Parks Operations and Maintenance Levy property taxes in December (Option 1), and Mr. Mosher seconded the motion.

Mr. Lee said the intent of the levy was to provide operations and maintenance funds in support of projects identified within the acquisition and development package.

Mr. Noble feels approval of the ballot measure is an indication of citizens' support for maintenance and operations funding for the existing park system. He noted the ballot title did not specify that the O&M funding would be used only for new park acquisitions and developments. He said the ballot title and text should have explicitly linked the levy to the acquisition and development package to ensure voters understood the measure.

Mr. Mosher agreed with Mr. Lee that the property tax should not be levied since the original intent was to fund operations and maintenance costs for new acquisitions and development.

☞ The motion to not levy the Parks Operations and Maintenance Levy property taxes in December (Option 1) carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Noble dissenting.

City Manager Steve Sarkozy noted the budget wrap-up discussion scheduled for November 25 and requested additional input from Council.

Mayor Marshall said she concurs with the Environmental Services Commission's report at the earlier Regular Session. She supports the Parks and Community Services Board's recommendation to allocate more money toward acquisitions. She is in favor of funding the Bellevue Cultural Plan proposed by the Arts Commission. Turning to the Transportation Commission's recommendations, Mrs. Marshall suggested further consideration of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway analysis because the study was promised when the area was annexed to Bellevue.

Mayor Marshall strongly supports funding for the Youth Eastside Services (YES) Immigrant and Refugee Program. Regarding the Finance/Human Resources system project and the proposal to reallocate six vacant positions to this effort, Mrs. Marshall suggested eliminating the six positions and utilizing limited-term employees (LTEs) to implement this project.

Mayor Marshall thanked staff for their hard work on the budget and for their technical and administrative support to the City's boards and commissions.

Dr. Davidson expressed concern about overall increases in the budget, particularly in the area of wages and benefits.

Mr. Noble expressed support for funding YES programs. He is in favor of providing an asphalt trail along 140th Avenue as requested by residents. He supports the recommendations of the Parks Board.

Mr. Lee commended the City Manager and staff for their management of the budget process. He supports the requests for funding from the YES Immigrant and Refugee Program and the Reinvesting in Youth initiative, which emphasize prevention and intervention.

☞ Deputy Mayor Degginger moved to extend the meeting to 12:30 a.m., and Mr. Mosher seconded the motion.

☞ The motion to extend the meeting carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Mosher expressed support for the Transportation Commission's recommendations. He encouraged staff to proceed with the 24th Street walkway project in the Bridle Trails area and to explore innovative solutions with residents. He supports funding for the YES Immigrant and Refugee Program and the Reinvesting in Youth initiative. He is in favor of providing \$100,000 toward development of the Bellevue Cultural Plan.

Mr. Creighton reminded Council and the community that more drastic budget cuts are not needed at this time, despite the difficult economic conditions, because the City Council has been prudent in its budgeting for many years.

Deputy Mayor Degginger feels this has been a good budget process. He understands the need for a new Finance/Human Resources system but shares the Mayor's concern regarding the staffing plan for this project. He suggested more attention and discussion to reprioritize transportation projects. He supports the need for a safe pedestrian walkway along 140th Avenue.

Mayor Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 a.m., Tuesday, November 19.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

November 18, 2002 Study Session

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